GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3673
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
TOBACCO GROWERS
Shivanna Shri M

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge demand of the tobacco grown in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in the international market;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Tobacco Growers and the Indian Tobacco Association have urged the Tobacco Board to increase the crop size of Tobacco in these States; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Centre in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) Though tobacco exports from India have been growing in both quantity and value, tobacco prices at the auctions continuously remain under pressure. With the loss of Russian market, the Tobacco Board has been continuously trying to access new markets.

b)& c) The Indian Tobacco Association indicated a crop size of 105 Mkg. for Karnataka during 2006-07 season. After taking into consideration, the opinion of all stake holders and the international demand the Tobacco Board has fixed a crop size of 92.40 Mkg. (including 10% nature's bounty) to ensure fair and remunerative price to the farmers. This is the highest crop size ever fixed for Karnataka.